

Highlands **The Communicator** FREE

Haliburton County's Good News Fun Magazine

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Blues at the Delta Returns!

Multiple Award Winner, Jack de Keyzer, Will Wow You

Jack de Keyzer has won a Juno award, he's won seven Maple Blues awards and critics have been giving his music rave reviews for many years now. On Saturday, Feb. 14th at 8 p.m., this highly respected Canadian artist will take centre stage at the Delta Pinestone Resort in Haliburton for the popular "Blues at the Delta" concert series. Opening up the show for him will be Canadian, finger-style guitarist Rick Fines.

Born in London, England, this Canadian resident's career has spanned over three decades. de Keyzer has released six CD's and one DVD as a leader and appeared as a session guitarist on hundreds of recordings. He has performed as a session guitarist with many artists including Etta James, Otis Rush, John Hammond Jr., Robert Gordon, Willy Big Eyes Smith, Bo Diddley and Blue Rodeo.

His songs have also appeared in video, rock and blues radio charts, other artists CD's, motion pictures, TV soundtracks and most recently the Bravo Channel for the Talkin' Blues series.

De Keyzer, known for being an exciting entertainer, soulful singer, virtuosic guitarist and eclectic songwriter, delights a vast spectrum of music lovers wherever he performs. Performing 150 + dates a year, the Jack de Keyzer band (David Colter, drums; Alan Duffy, bass; Chris Murphy, saxophone) has toured throughout Canada, the USA, Mexico and Europe and has performed at many major blues festivals & corporate events including: the BB King Blues Festival, the Montreal International Festival of Jazz, Puerto Blues, Mexico and Blues sur Seine, in France.

His latest album, "Blues Thing" (on the blue star imprint) is the latest milestone in the lifelong musical journey of a contemporary blues artist.

Presented by Kashaga Moon Productions, the Blues at the Delta concert

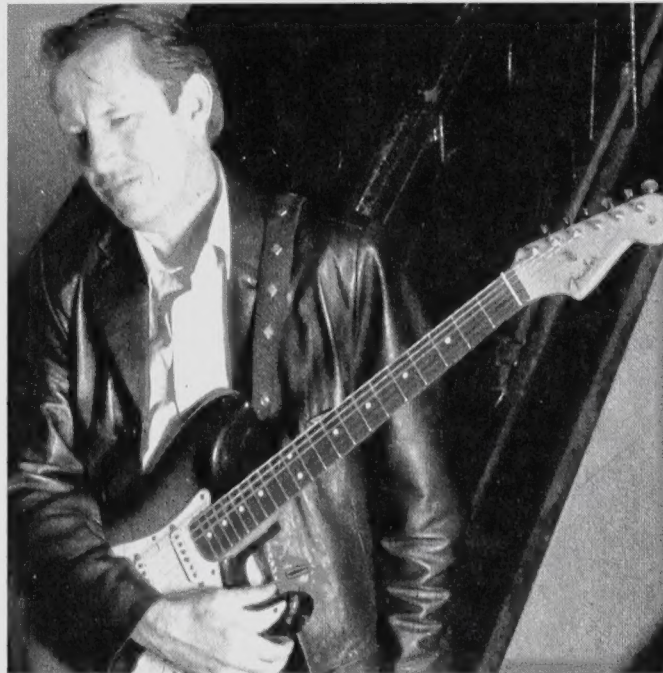
series was first introduced to Haliburton County last May when legendary group The Downchild Blues Band got things started.

This is an age of majority event with limited tickets available. Tickets are affordably priced for this show at only \$37.50. Ensure to get yours before they sell out by going to the following locations: Henwood's General Store

& Sweet Shoppe, the Delta Pinestone Resort (705 457-1800) and Kashaga Productions (705 457-5818).

A portion of proceeds from this event will be donated to Cottage Dreams, a local charitable organization that provides cancer survivors with a donated cottage for a week to get some rest and relaxation with their families.

Below are some of the noteworthy awards Jack de Keyzer has received over the course of his career. For more information on the artist visit www.jackdekeyzer.com.



AWARDS

Juno: 6 String Lover/ Blues Album of the Year 2003

Maple Blues Awards: Guitarist of the Year 2005; Guitarist of the Year 2004; Entertainer of the Year 2004; Electric Act of the Year 2004; Blues With A Feeling Award (Lifetime Achievement) 2001; Down in the Groove/ Blues Album of the Year 2000

Jazz Report Magazine: Down in the

Groove/Blues Album of the Year 2000

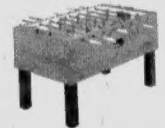
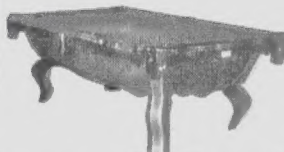
Juno Nomination: Down in the Groove/Blues Album of the Year

Real Blues Magazine: Live Act of the Year 2001; Guitarist of the Year 1999-2004 (tie with Mel Brown)

Durham Region Music Award: Blues Recording of the Year 2005
Blues Recording of the Year 2004



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Magnum Ice Series Pulls Into Minden

Get Set, Get Ready and Go, For a Truly Canadian Motorsport

Ice Racing started in Ontario more than forty years ago, and it continues to thrive as an inexpensive, fun part of the Ontario motorsport scene.

The events were originally held on frozen lakes and rivers - and some still are - but in the late seventies, the Ontario championships moved to more permanent facilities at the fairgrounds in Minden, Ontario. The track is laid out, and then repeatedly coated with water until a thick layer of ice is built up between the snow banks that delineate the course. The ice race season starts in mid January and runs until early March, usually consisting of six two-day events.

Ice racing is back in Minden for another year and all the action begins on Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Minden Fairgrounds.

Tom Prentice, President of the Minden Kinsmen Club and organizer of the event, said races will usually start around 9:30 a.m. on Saturday's and 12 p.m. on Sunday's.

To register to be a part of this slippery sport, visit www.casc.on.ca/events.php and click on ice race page and go to the 2009 ice race entry form link on the right side of the page.

"The process involves registering, joining a club and getting a license," explained Prentice. "Then you come to the event and your car gets a safety check. If it's good to go then you are on your way."

For further questions about the event call Tom Prentice at 705 286-1428.



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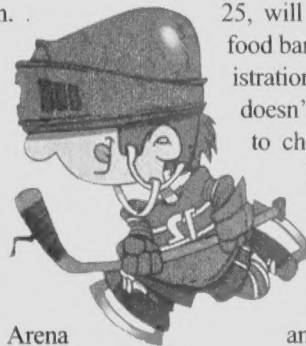
The pucks will drop starting on Friday, Jan. 23 for the 11th annual Haliburton County Home Builders Association (HCHBA) Charity Hockey Tournament.

Proceeds from the three-day tournament, that ends on Sunday, Jan. 25, will go to the 4C's and local area food banks.

Though registration for teams is now over, that doesn't mean that you can't come out to cheer on your favourite team!

In addition to the hockey action, there will be two dances of-fered to the public. The festivities will all take place at the Dysart and the Highlands East Arena.

For more information contact Aggie Tose, Executive Director of the HCHBA, at 705 457-2629 or go to www.hchba.ca.



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COUNTY OF HALIBURTON RAIL TRAIL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Date: January 22, 2009
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Haliburton County Office, Minden

The goal of the public meeting is to let the community of Haliburton County Rail Trail users and potential users have a voice in regards to the future of the Rail Trail. Attendees may request to present at the meeting. Presenters will be allotted 5 minutes to speak. Copies of the Rail Trail Master Plan are available at the Trails and Tours Office in Camarvon, the Haliburton County Office in Minden and online at www.haliburtoncounty.ca

The Haliburton Highlands Trails and Tours Network on behalf of the Haliburton County Rail Trail Management Committee will be accepting letters from those unable to attend the meeting and presentation requests sent "Attn: 5 Year Review" until January 14, 2009. Letters can be sent via:

Email: info@trailsandtours.com Fax: 705-489-4051 (During Office Hours)

Mail: Haliburton Highlands Trails and Tours Network
Attn: 5 Year Review
15500 Hwy 35, Camarvon, Ontario K0M 1J0

Haliburton Highlands Copy Centre

Spotlight

On Business

By George Farrell

Haliburton Highlands Copy Centre Takes Over From Established Minden Business Supply Store

When one business takes over another one, the changeover doesn't always take place immediately, but often over a period of time. Such is the case with Golden Stationers, which was taken over on October 1st 2008. The sign on the outside of the downtown Minden store still says Golden Stationers, "but that will change, come the spring, when we get our own awning," says John McLeod, the new co-owner of the store, renamed the Haliburton Highlands Copy Centre.

John was born and raised in Lindsay where he graduated from I. E. Weldon Secondary School. He's married to Lisa, and the couple has 3 children; 2 girls and a boy.

After an apprenticeship in retail meat cutting John realized a better

opportunity when he saw it. "Dad had opened Kawartha Lakes Business

Equipment 2 years earlier, and I started working for him in 1984," he reveals. John's Mom and Dad ran the operation until their retirement in 2004, at which time John and his brother-in-law Brad Lloyd, bought them out. John is now President, and Brad is Vice President and Service Manager of the busy Lindsay operation, which deals in business machines and equipment.

At a time when many businesses are downsizing, Kawartha Lakes Business Equipment is expanding, not only to the new Minden store, but also to Port Perry where the store will be called the Port Perry Copy Centre. "We need to expand,"

John explains. "Our business this past December was up 30% from the previous year. We've got 11 people in total on staff. People still need office supplies, copiers still break, and they need replacements."

The reason for expansion to the Highlands seems like a logical step. Chuck Golden, the owner of Golden Stationers in Minden, had previously worked at Golden Stationers in Lindsay, before selling out his portion of that business to his brother. While in Lindsay, Kawartha Lakes Business Equipment serviced many of the Golden machines. When Chuck opened Golden Stationers in Minden, "we kept the connection," John says. "We've always serviced equipment and tried to sell business machines in the



Pictured: Co-owner John McLeod and store manager Michelle St. Pierre

The Highlands Communicator

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Copy Centre cont'd.. pg. 5...

Copy Centre Cont'd...

...from pg. 4

Highlands, but we've never had a big presence before. We realized that there was a small but growing client base here, due to the people from this area who came to our Lindsay store. Buying out Chuck gives us the opportunity to supply the community here with equipment they would previously have had to go out of the county for; equipment like Konica and Minolta copiers, Brother fax machines and printers, and Samsung cash registers."

While Golden Stationers was well respected locally, the new Haliburton Highlands Copy Centre is an improvement. "We're going to add the ability to process business cards, 3 part invoice forms, and letterheads," John says. "We now have one wall devoted to a much bigger selection of printer inks, like Canon, H.P. Lexmark, Brother and Epson, and various other brands. We also have corresponding Ko-Rec-Type generic inks, and in Lindsay we recycle and refill most brands of ink cartridges. People can bring their empty cartridges into the Minden store and we can refill them for about half the cost of purchasing new ones."

John has been surprised by how busy the Minden store is. "There's a great demand for ink and copying, because so many people now run their businesses out of their homes. We've increased the ability for print on demand, where you can get up to 200 copies right away, which we think is a great feature. We can now also print emails for people, and we have a high speed internet connection, which wasn't at the store before."

With any well run business customer service is a prime consideration. One of the things Golden Stationers was noted for was the helpfulness and efficiency of store manager Michelle St. Pierre. "Michelle has built a great rapport with customers over the past 10 years," says John, "and we're very happy that she's staying with us to continue that rapport."

"We have a new more efficient system of invoicing now," Michelle says. "We have more stock to offer, and I'm looking forward to providing customers with improved printing services."

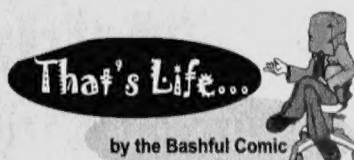
In the 26 years that John has been working out of the Lindsay store they've installed over 800 business machines in the Lindsay, Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton Highlands areas, and the new Minden store inherits all that experience and expertise in delivery, installation and maintenance.

"We have two service technicians on the road full time," John assures. So, if you're looking for office equipment and machines, and the most up-to-date copy centre in the Highlands, look no further than the Haliburton Highlands Copy Centre. "Our prices are extremely competitive and you don't need to drive to Lindsay or Orillia because we have a great selection here. If we don't have what you're looking for in stock, we can get it the next day if need be," states co-owner John McLeod.

The Haliburton Highlands Copy Centre is also the local agent for both Lindsay Cleaners and PuroLator.

The Haliburton Highlands Copy Centre is located at 108 Bobcaygeon Rd (Main Street), PO Box 342, Minden ON. L0M 2K0. Phone: (705) 286-2110 Fax: (705) 286-1827. Email: hhcc@bellnet.ca. To order online: www.klbe.ca. Store hours are 9-5:30 Monday to Friday, and 9-1 on Saturday.

Negative People - this one is priceless



This is something to think about when negative people are doing their best to rain on your parade. So remember this story the next time someone who knows nothing, and cares less, tries to make your life miserable.

A woman was at her hairdresser's getting her hair styled for a trip to Rome with her husband. She mentioned the trip to the hairdresser, who responded:

"Rome? Why would anyone want to go there? It's crowded and dirty. You're crazy to go to Rome. So, how are you getting there?"

"We're taking Continental," was the reply. "We got a great rate!"

"Continental?" exclaimed the hairdresser. "That's a terrible airline. Their planes are old, their flight attendants are ugly, and they're always late. So, where are you staying in Rome?"

"We'll be at this exclusive little place over on Rome's Tiber River called Teste."

"Don't go any further. I know that place. Everybody thinks it's gonna be something special and exclusive, but it's really a Dump, the worst hotel in the city! The rooms are small, the service is surly, and they're overpriced."

So, watcha' doing when you get there?"

"We're going to go to see the Vatican and we hope to see the Pope."

"That's rich," laughed the hairdresser. "You and a million other people trying to see him. He'll look the size of an ant."

Boy, good luck on this lousy trip of yours. You're going to need it."

A month later, the woman again came in for a hairdo. The hairdresser asked her about her trip to Rome.

"It was wonderful," explained the woman, "not only were we on time in one of Continental's brand new planes, but it was overbooked, and they bumped us up to first class. The food and wine were wonderful, and I had a handsome 28-year-old steward who waited on me hand and foot."

And the hotel was great! They'd just finished a \$5 million remodelling job, and now it's a jewel, the finest hotel in the city. They, too, were overbooked, so they apologized and gave us their owner's suite at no extra charge!"

"Well," muttered the hairdresser, "that's all well and good, but I know you didn't get to see the Pope."

"Actually, we were quite lucky, because as we toured the Vatican, a Swiss Guard tapped me on the shoulder, and explained that the Pope likes to meet some of the visitors, and if I'd be so kind as to step into his private room and wait, the Pope would personally greet me."

Sure enough, five minutes later, the Pope walked through the door and shook my hand! I knelt down and he spoke a few words to me."

"Oh, really! What'd he say?"

He said: "Where'd you get the crappy Hairdo?"

Making a Name for Herself

Haliburton's Alicia Sales Releases Debut Album in Toronto

By Mark Arike

Though singer and songwriter Alicia Sales is now a fair distance away from her hometown of Haliburton, that doesn't mean the 25-year old is going to forget about the small community she came from.

"I've lived up in Haliburton forever," said Sales in a phone interview with The Highlands Communicator. "Ever since I started singing competitively, people came to cheer me on and support me."

Currently living in Toronto, Alicia held a CD release party on Wednesday, Jan. 21 for her self-titled album that features 10 songs she has either written or co-written.

The blonde, bubbly Haliburton native has had a passion for singing ever since she was a small-town girl and it's safe to say that the environment she grew up in encouraged her to



become a musical artist.

"I started singing before I could talk," explained Sales. "I think the first time my parents caught me singing was when I was three years old, belting out Beethoven's Fifth in a chicken coop!"

While growing up, Alicia was exposed to the musical talents of her own family members. She even sang with her parents who put on shows in the local community at fairs and other events.

"My dad would sing and play lead guitar and my mom played the guitar, violin and mandolin," said Sales.

Not only did she quickly become enthralled with music at an early age, Sales also found herself participating in theatre arts and music at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS).

"I was in plays in high school like Grease and I played flute in the band," said Sales.

At the age of 11, Alicia made the decision to pursue music as a career.

"That was around the time my parents contacted Randall Prescott, who was the Canadian Country Music Awards Association (CCMA) producer of the year at the time, to tell him about me," said Sales. "Randall then decided that he wanted to meet me."

Prescott, who has gold and platinum records to his credit, asked Sales to sing the song 'Crazy', made famous by Patsy Cline.

"When he heard me, he said, 'Your hired!'"

And hired she was. Prescott got her to record on Snoopy's Country CD, a children's album released by Sony.

When she was 17, Sales was recruited as the lead vocalist for the popular tribute band "The Dixie Chicklets".

"An agent from a booking house saw my picture in a CCMA book," explained Sales on how she was contacted for the gig. "They called me to ask if I played the fiddle and banjo. I said, 'No, I'm a lead singer!'"

Alicia considers it a blessing to be a part of The Dixie Chicklets. Being in the group has given her the opportunity to network, keep her voice in shape and discover many areas in North America and the world.

"It's exciting and it's really neat to see all of the different town and cities and see how different people are," she explained. Alicia performs with the group to this day on a part-time basis, while focusing

Vocals on her latest release have been described as "irresistible", "unique", and "powerful". The compelling lyrics are thrust forward with emotion and Alicia's unique pop sound with a hint of country twang in her voice separates her from many artists. A talented stage

Making A Name For Herself cont'd.. pg. 7...

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Alicia Sales Cont'd...

... from pg. 6

band provides the music that goes along with her refreshing vocals.

Already, songs off her self-titled album are receiving radio play from select pre-released recordings. The song "Who You Are" was noticed internationally and is now on a DVD promoting Australia's tourism industry. The first track on the CD, "Break Me", is being considered for an upcoming Los Angeles film production.

Alicia says that the music she writes comes from deep within.

"A lot of it is about expressing yourself and using music as a way of revealing the things that can be tough to talk about," she said. "I think there is something for everyone on this album."

As for her sound, Alicia says that she has been compared to the likes of Jewel, Heart and Cheryl Crowe.

Throughout the struggles she's encountered while chasing a career in the music industry, Alicia is thankful to fans that have supported her and her parents Nancy and Bradley who have encouraged her to press on.

"My parents are pretty positive that something will happen for me," said Sales. "I have no doubt about that as well."

Alicia's album can be purchased at the following locations in Haliburton: Stedman's V&S, Home Hardware and Cordell Carpet.

Previews of Alicia's exciting, new self-titled album can be heard on her web site at www.aliciasales.com.



"When dispensing medicine to my dogs, I have always coated the pills in butter or peanut butter. It seems to make it more appetizing, or the butter at least helps it go down smoothly. I recently was prescribed some pills that are very large. I tried the butter method on myself, and sure enough, it works." -- J.K. in Pennsylvania

"A nice, cheap exfoliator for skin is baking soda. It gives just enough scrub, and a box is less than a dollar. I love it." -- A Reader in Minnesota

"I cook soup in quantity, because my family loves leftovers. To

cool a big pot quickly, I keep a clean, plastic water bottle mostly filled with water, which I freeze. I use it to stir the soup. It cools down quickly, and then I can stick it in smaller containers in the fridge." -- V.L., via e-mail

"In a pinch, you can invert a metal colander over a pot of spaghetti sauce or a pan of greasy bacon or burgers to keep things nice and neat while cooking. It catches the splatter in the net, and the grease or sauce doesn't get all over your stovetop. I really hate when tomato sauce gets on the wall behind my stove, because it's hard to get off if you don't catch it all right away." -- A.A. in Florida

To test whether the oil in a deep fryer or fry pan is ready, try dropping a single kernel of popping corn into it. If it's hot enough, it should pop.

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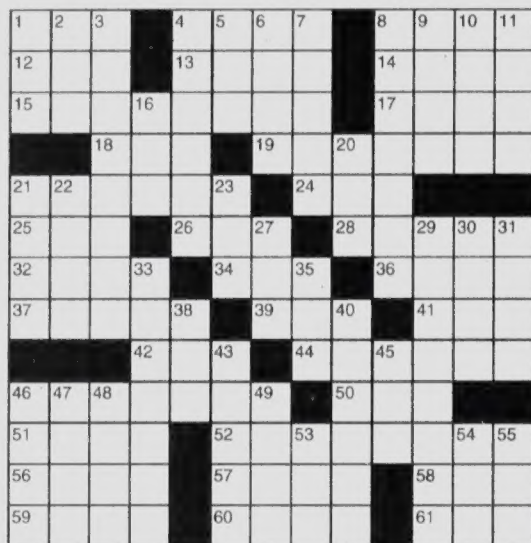


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The great escape

One of our readers, a former corrections officer, told us about a couple of inmates who tried to escape from their medium security prison. They made a rope out of bedsheets and used it to scale a wall and climb down the other side. Unfortunately for them, the other side of the wall was still inside the prison grounds. They were promptly apprehended.

Polite robbers wait their turn

Two Birmingham, Alabama teens walked into a shoe store and asked employee Sonya Graham for a pen and paper. One of the girls wrote a note, then handed it to the worker, saying, "I'm sorry to do this. You're so nice."

The note said: "I have a gun in my pants, give me all the money."

"You came at a bad time," the employee said. "I have a customer to wait on."

The would-be robbers offered to wait, police said, so the worker walked to the back of the store and triggered the store's silent alarm system. She then went back to the counter and stalled the suspects until police arrived.

"They were real nice," said police Lt. Roy Williams, adding that the girls were armed with a toy cap pistol. "They probably haven't done this before."

Bad Predictions

The case is a loser. — Johnnie Cochran, on soon-to-be client O.J.'s chances of winning, 1994.

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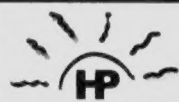
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BASIC BOOKKEEPING - Dennis Casey

Wednesday February 11th, 2009 - 1:00pm to 4:00pm. Fleming College, Haliburton. Fee: \$20.

A 3 hr. overview for sole proprietors/partners covering Statement of Business Activity - Form T2124 & T2032, calculations for automobile & house expenses and capital cost allowance.

INCOME TAX PREPARATION FOR THE SELF-EMPLOYED - Jim Blake

Friday February 13th, 2009 - 9:00am to 12:00pm. Fleming College, Haliburton. Fee: \$10. + GST, Arts Council Members FREE.

For anyone who is self-employed with specific information for artists.

MAKING DIGITAL IMAGES WORK FOR YOU - GETTING STARTED - Tammy Rea

Tuesday February 17th, 2009 - 9:00am to 12:00pm. Fleming College, Haliburton - Computer Lab. Fee: \$35. + GST, Arts Council Members \$20. + GST.

Learn how to use basic photo editing software, retrieve images from your camera, file formats, storage and preparing images for print documents and email. Students are required to supply their own images. Limited space.

BUSINESS PLANNING FOR WOMEN - Fay Martin

Thursday February 26th, 2009 - 9:00am to 12:00pm. Fleming College, Haliburton. Fee: \$20.

This workshop will validate the particular strengths and values that women bring to business by taking a holistic approach to the challenge of meeting financial targets while accommodating life circumstances.

GETTING MEDIA ATTENTION - David Israelson of Media Profile

Friday February 27th, 2009 - 9:00am to 12:00pm. Fleming College, Haliburton. Fee: \$35. + GST, Arts Council Members \$20. + GST.

David will walk you through the tools, techniques and trade secrets to get your story in the news. Workbook included.

QUICK BOOKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS - Robert Hall, CMA

Tuesday March 3rd, 2009 - 9:00am to 12:00pm - Fleming College, Haliburton. Fee: \$20.

A 3 hour overview of this popular accounting software program.

MANAGING FOR TOUGH TIMES - Lon Duncombe

Fleming College, Haliburton. Fee: \$30. each or 3 for \$75.

Monday March 9th, 2009 - 9:00am to 12:00pm - **ANALYSING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Wednesday March 11th, 2009 - 9:00am to 12:00pm - **PROFIT & LOSS VS. CASH FLOW**

Thursday March 12th, 2009 - 9:00am to 12:00pm - **MANAGING FOR CASH**

This 3 part workshop will include Analyzing Financial Statements, Budgeting (profit vs. cash flow), Managing for Cash (what to chop, what to keep).

WORKING WITH DIGITAL IMAGES - INTERMEDIATE - Tammy Rea

Tuesday March 10th, 2009 - 9:00am to 12:00pm. Fleming College, Haliburton - Computer Lab. Fee: \$35. + GST, Arts Council Members \$20. + GST.

This workshop will cover putting digital images into Powerpoint presentations and web applications, using software for photo editing and more.

MARKETING DYNAMICS - Mike Jaycock

Tuesday March 31st, 2009 - 9:00am to 12:00pm - Haliburton Curling Club (Lower Level). Fee: \$30.

A "roll up your sleeves" seminar to provide you with a planning process that will work for your business communications.

Bring your along your "burning" communication issue for discussion.

WORKING WITH DIGITAL IMAGES - ADVANCE - Tammy Rea

Tuesday April 7th, 2009 - 9:00am to 12:00pm. Fleming College, Haliburton - Computer Lab. Fee: \$35. + GST, Arts Council Members \$20. + GST.

Learn how to create videos from still images, putting videos into Powerpoint presentations, creating streaming videos for websites and photo manipulation.

PST/GST - Reps. from Federal & Provincial Governments

Wednesday April 15th, 2009 - 6:00pm to 9:00pm - Haliburton Curling Club (Lower Level). Free

How to complete your forms, understand the differences between PST & GST, Clarify your responsibilities for collecting and remitting tax credits and overpayments, answer your questions.

CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE - Carey McMaster

Thursday April 30th, 2009 - 6:00pm to 9:00pm - Haliburton Curling Club (Lower Level). Fee: \$20.

The most important relationship your company has is the one between your customers and staff. Anything you can do to strengthen that relationship will benefit your business.

MANAGING YOUR STAFF AND/OR VOLUNTEERS - Fay Martin

Thursday May 7th, 2009 - 6:00pm to 9:00pm - Haliburton Curling Club (Lower Level). Fee: \$20.

This workshop will focus on clear communication as the basis of good work relationships. It will look at job descriptions, job interviews, job performance evaluations and feedback as a way of identifying and correcting employment problems.

MANAGING STRESS IN THE WORKPLACE - Dr. Jack Russel

Monday May 11th, 2009 - 6:00pm to 9:00pm - Haliburton Curling Club (Lower Level). Fee: \$20.

Managing personal stress will improve workplace performance. This workshop will focus on learning how to manage stress and develop strategies to overcome it.

OVERCOMING PROCRASTINATION - Dr. Jack Russel

Wednesday May 13th, 2009 - 6:00pm to 9:00pm - Haliburton Curling Club (Lower Level). Fee: \$20.

Identifying procrastination behaviors and developing strategies to implement better time management.



**Register now by calling H.C.D.C. (705) 457-3555
or on line @ www.haliburtoncdc.ca**

Calling All Actors and Actresses!

Highlands Summer Festival Seeking Talent for Future Shows

The Highlands Summer Festival and Director Scot Denton are looking for talented actors and actresses to play parts in several roles for the Highlands Summer Festival!

On the weekend of January 24 and 25, auditions will be held for characters appearing in the show *Annie*. Children's auditions were held on the weekend of January 17. Those attending the audition should come prepared to sing one verse or 16 bars of a song from a musical theatre production other than *Annie*.

Call-backs for adult roles are on Sunday, Jan. 25. The Festival is also inviting actors to audition for the two other productions this summer, *Butterflies are Free* and *Play On!*.

Auditions for these two productions will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24, with call-backs on Sunday, Jan. 25. These two comedies require fourteen players aged early twenties through to sixties in both genders.

To book an audition time and for more information, contact Betty Mills at 705-457-1354. Call the same number if you are interested in assisting with off-stage duties.

Here is what is planned for the 2009 Highlands Summer Festival/Highlands Opera Studio season:

Annie - A musical based on the popular Harold Gray comic strip *Little Orphan Annie*, with music by Charles Strouse, lyrics by Martin Charnin, and the book by Thomas Meehan. *Annie* is a spunky Depression-era orphan determined to find her parents, who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of a New York City Orphanage run by the cruel, embittered Miss Hannigan.

In adventure after fun-filled adventure, Annie foils Miss Hannigan's evil machinations, befriends President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and finds a new family and home with billionaire Oliver Warbucks, his personal secretary Grace Farrell and a lovable mutt named Sandy. This is great family entertainment. The show opens on June 29th for a total of 10 performances.

Limerick - "Melissa and Lauren and Tomas, Their music will thrill and be calm us, With a guest spot or two, To liven the brew, The evening will live up to its promise." Welcome to an evening of unforgettable musical selections presented by a trio of outstanding local performers. Melissa Stephens, Lauren McInnes, Tom Regina, and special guests, present an evening of music ranging from classical to contemporary. This captivating concert is sure to be a delightful evening with some interesting surprises along the way. Three concerts are scheduled for July 6, 21 and 31.

Butterflies are Free - by Leonard Gershe: Don Baker has it all. An apartment in Manhattan, a budding song-writing career and to top it all off, a free-thinking young girl has just moved into the adjoining apartment.

He also has a promise from his overly-protective mother to keep her distance. However, she just can't resist dropping by, uninvited, and meets Don's neighbour, the sexy actress Jill. Mrs. Baker's controlling instincts go into overdrive as she tries to rescue her son from the folly of his lifestyle. Don finds his way with hilariously touching results. *Butterflies are Free* opens July 13th for eight performances.

David Archibald in Concert - Folk singer, song-writer and historian, composer of musicals such as the 2005 HSF production of *The Perilous Pirate's Daughter*, David Archibald returns to the Highlands Summer Festival stage for a one-man show sure to delight. With songs full of humour and heart - many based on incidents from Canada's past - David's performance will weave a magical evening of musical entertainment. Two concerts will be held on July 20th and August 3rd.

PLAY ON! by Rick Abbot: This is a hilarious story of a theatre group trying desperately to produce a play in spite of maddening interference from a haughty author who keeps revising the script. The ensemble stumbles from Act I, a rehearsal of the challenging show, to Act II, the near disastrous dress rehearsal, and then the final act, the actual opening night performance at which anything that can go wrong does. *Play On!* opens for eight performances on July 27th.

Opera Excerpts Concerts - The participants in this season's Highlands Opera Studio present two evenings of their favourite highlights from best-loved operas of the world. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear familiar arias, duets, choruses and more, all in one evening!

The Excerpts Concert has been such a popular attraction that an extra performance has been added to the schedule. The two presentations are set for August 21st and 22nd.

Die Fledermaus - A wild costume party, confused identities, and an opportunity to extract some revenge for an earlier embarrassment: it's a rich recipe for a great comedic operetta. Composed by Johann Strauss II, the Highlands Opera Studio presents *Die Fledermaus*. The production will feature a chorus drawn from the local community. The Highlands Opera Studio is back and is bigger and better than ever. Canadian Tenor Richard Margison and Opera Director Valerie Kuinka lead an outstanding faculty as it instructs young professional opera singers in three weeks of intensive training.

In the end they will showcase their talents by presenting the complete three act opera. Three performances are scheduled for August 30th with a Sunday afternoon matinee, Tuesday, Sept. 1st and Thursday, Sept. 3rd.

For more on any of these shows visit www.highlandsummerfestival.on.ca.

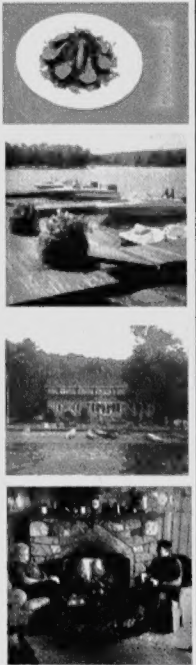
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2007 Canadian Folk Music Award Winners Coming...

Tanglefoot is a Mix of Sweeping Canadiana and
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The Haliburton County Folk Society (HCFS) is excited to announce that Tanglefoot will be their next featured act in their popular concert series on Friday, Jan. 30 at 8 p.m. at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion.

Tanglefoot is an iconic, five-piece Canadian band that is well known for their vocal prowess, instrumental agility and vivid lyrics. The group was once coined as "Stan Rogers meets Van Halen" by one fan. In 1996, the group recorded a song called "Vimy" which led to their taking part in the dedication of the restored memorial for The Battle of Vimy Ridge in Vimy, France on April 9, 2007.

"They have a huge number of awards, they have a great reputation and they have really great music," says Sean Pennylegion, HCFS committee member. "It'll be a fun, high energy show," he adds.

Opening for the group will be local artist of the spoken word Ryan Dawson.

Tickets are affordably priced for this major show at \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Students can get in for \$15.

For more information about this event visit www.haliburtonfolk.com and to read more about Tanglefoot, visit their web site at www.tanglefootmusic.com.





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Ghost Stories *Scary Tales*

Barney Duffy's Curse

Barney Duffy was a giant of a man. He towered over the two young soldiers, uttering a terrible curse: "Take me or report me, ye red-coated, lily-livered lice! Aye! And then I'll hang -- but hear me curse on ye! So surely as ye do this, before me corpse has hung a week on King's Town gallows, ye'll meet a violent death, the pair of ye!"

Duffy, an Irishman, had been imprisoned by the British on Norfolk Island in the Pacific Ocean, 1450 km. north-east of Sydney. The island is one of the most beautiful in the world, but its past is a long tale of blood.

Present day residents have claimed to have seen ghosts of the Bounty mutineers, who outgrew tiny Pitcairn Island and moved to Norfolk in the 19th century.

Barney Duffy escaped from his hell, and hid in a hollow pine in the thick rain forest. He emerged at night to raid the vegetable gardens of the settlement. His beard and hair were long and matted, and he had just a few rags to cover himself when the two soldiers who were out fishing, discovered him.

They ignored his curse, and returned him to the settlement. Duffy was hanged, and two days later the soldiers went to fish near the same pine.

Shortly after a foot patrol found the broken and battered bodies of the two soldiers drifting in the tide.

No one knows how they died. The secret lies in Barney Duffy Gully on Norfolk Island.

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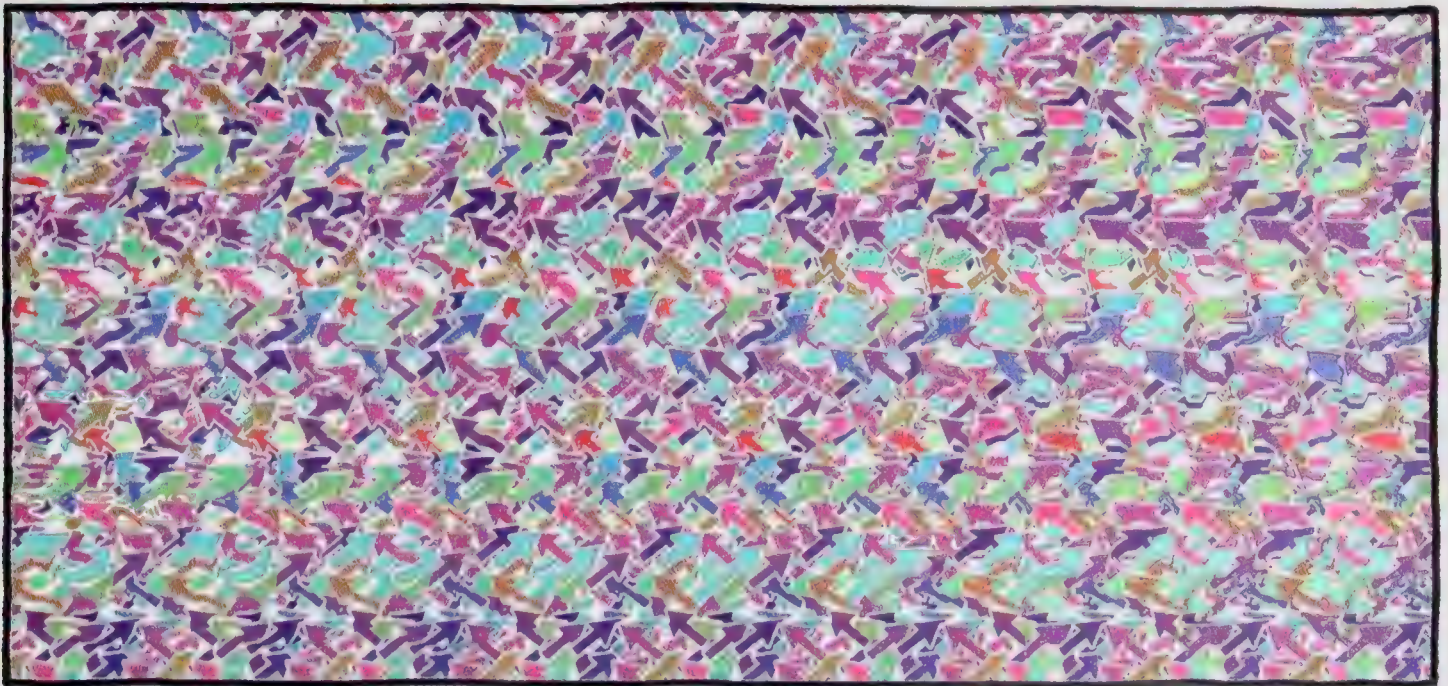
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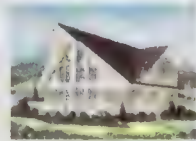
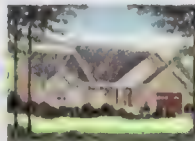


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Crime Flashback

by Max Haines

Plunged Into Mystery

By the time our story shifts into second gear in the summer of 1930, Elizabeth Hisey had gone through two husbands, one by death and one by divorce.

Her first husband, Thomas King, left Elizabeth a small fortune, mostly invested in small businesses around Midland, Ont.

Elizabeth had two adult children living in the area, a son, Cleophus, and a married daughter, Velma Bates.

The family was a close knit one until Robert Elliott appeared on the scene.

Robert was a travelling salesman with the Ralston Purina Co. of Woodstock and a real ladies' man.

Elizabeth, in her mid-50s, took to the silver-tongued salesman like a duck takes to water. Her son didn't approve, mainly because there was a Mrs. Elliott stashed away somewhere.

Enter Gordon Gastle, a pleasant young man who was known to Elliott. He introduced Gordon to Mrs. Hisey. It so happened that Elizabeth needed a handyman to do minor repairs around her properties, as well as act as her chauffeur. She hired Gordon on the spot. He proved to be a conscientious, industrious employee in the weeks that followed.

You now have met all the principals in the high drama that was soon to take place -- the suave travelling salesman, the middle-aged widow, her offspring and, of course, the chauffeur.

That summer of 1930, Elizabeth purchased the down-and-out Palmer House in Waubaushene with the intention of renovating the old hotel and operating it on a profitable basis.

As the work progressed, Gordon Gastle became the general foreman and timekeeper, overseeing the carpenters and labourers on the job.

One night, when renovations were still taking place, Elizabeth decided to have two bedrooms made up so that she and Gastle could spend the night there.

That night, a fire broke out and the old structure burned to the ground.

Elizabeth and Gordon were fortunate to be able to climb out a ground-floor window and escape. Elizabeth collected insurance on the building and its contents.

On Feb. 17, 1931, Elizabeth decided that she wanted to visit Niagara Falls. Despite the proximity of her home to the famous tourist attraction, she had never visited the Niagara Peninsula. When her friends and family suggested she wait until the summer, she insisted on making the trip in the dead of winter.

Away they went, Gordon at the wheel, Elizabeth prim and proper in the backseat of her Nash.

Once at the Falls, they took rooms at the General Brock Hotel.

On the evening of the 18th, they viewed the coloured lights illuminating the world-famous panorama.

At Elizabeth's urging, they drove to Chippewa, turned around and headed back toward their hotel. It was snowing lightly along River Rd.

In those days, most of the Niagara River was not as visible to motorists as it is today. As they approached the Falls, the road ran beside the river. The pavement was icy. Somehow, the right tires of the Nash dipped into a ditch and the vehicle abruptly turned right, plunging directly into the Niagara River.

William Ingram of Chippewa was driving along the road that night when he noticed skid marks and pulled over.

Beside the river bank, he found Gordon Gastle lying on his back. Gordon was crying uncontrollably. When Ingram leaned over to give assistance, Gordon appeared to lose consciousness. When he regained consciousness, Ingram drove him to the Niagara Parks Police Station.

Once at the police station, Gordon blurted out that Elizabeth must still be in the car. He had managed to jump out as the car plunged over the steep river bank.

Police rushed to the river and sighted the car on its wheels in the river. The vehicle's lights still shone brightly. Elizabeth's body was extracted from the automobile, after which the body was examined by a coroner.

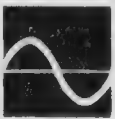
He noted that Elizabeth's head had been crushed.

The interior of the automobile was examined for blood. None was found, indicating Elizabeth's injury may have occurred when she was in, or entering, the water, causing the blood to be washed away by the current. It was theorized that had she received the massive injury on the river bank, there would have been a substantial quantity of coagulated blood, which might not have been cleaned away by the rushing water.

On Feb. 19, Dr. H. Logan performed a post-mortem examination. He



Plunged Into Mystery Cont'd... pg.15



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Haines Cont'd...

... from pg. 14

discovered that there was only a tiny quantity of water in one lung and no water at all in the other lung. This eliminated drowning as the cause of death and brought forth other thought provoking questions.

Had the car turned over, causing Elizabeth to be hurled against the front steering wheel?

How was Gordon able to get out of the vehicle in time to save himself from the swirling waters below?

Gordon was so shook up, he was confined to hospital. Police questioned him further. He told of losing control of the car and jumping out as it shot over the steep bank into the river. He could add nothing more.

Back in Midland, Elizabeth's son Cleophus, learned that his mother had made out a will, naming Robert Elliott as executor.

When he found out that the will was in Elliott's handwriting, he informed his lawyer that he wanted an inquest held into his mother's death.

Cleophus firmly believed that Elliott was somehow responsible for the untimely tragedy that had befallen his mother.

A coroner's inquest was held. The jury concluded rather unsatisfactorily that they were unable to determine when or how Elizabeth had received the fractured skull that had caused her death.

They further stated that Gordon Gastle was negligent in that he did not have the Nash under control at the time of the tragedy.

The coroner's inquest did nothing to discourage the Provincial Police from delving further into the entire affair.

They discovered that Elliott had a young girl on the line, Viola Marchaldon, who had no idea Elliott was a married man.

She and Elliott had visited Niagara Falls only two weeks before Elizabeth's death.

With Gordon acting as chauffeur, they had stopped and studied the very spot where Elizabeth was to meet her watery end.

It was the first real break in the case.

At the coroner's inquest, Gordon had sworn that he had never driven along River Rd. until the night of Elizabeth's death.

Slowly, a scenario emerged.

Was it just possible that Elliott and Gastle had conspired to murder Elizabeth, first by burning down the Palmer House, and, when that failed, by staging a phony accident along the deserted River Rd.?

The Crown felt it had enough to proceed.

On April 9, 1931, Gordon Gastle and Robert Elliott were charged with murder.

Their murder trial held the interest of the entire country that year.

Defense attorneys pointed out that no weapon, which could have caused Elizabeth's injury, had been found.

The Nash no doubt had somersaulted and could have thrown Elizabeth against the steering wheel.

They also pointed out that it was Elizabeth who had insisted on taking the trip in the first place.

Surely, premeditation was unlikely.

Besides, they felt that no motive had been established.

Defense attorneys put forward a Motion to Dismiss. After a short recess, the presiding judge agreed, stating, "There is no doubt in my mind that Mrs. Hisey came to her death before the car struck the water. Can we find any evidence of violence being used to cause death? If not, we must conclude she met death by the car turning over as it went down the embankment."

Robert Elliott and Gordon Gastle were exonerated in the death of Elizabeth Hisey.

However, they were then tried and found guilty of setting the Palmer House fire.

Convicted of arson, Elliott was sentenced to five years imprisonment, Gastle to three years.

Scientifically Speaking

What When Where Why How

Why do Jumping Beans Jump?

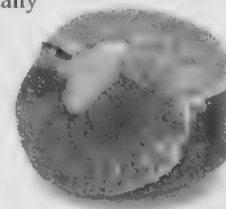
Jumping beans jump because there's something alive inside. A jumping bean is actually the seen of a Mexican shrub.

Inside the seed is the larva of a tiny moth.

When the seeds

are left in a warm place,

the larva starts to move around. And that causes the jumping bean to tumble and jump.



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Just read all the ads and keep an eye out for Sam - The Advertising Man. We will be hiding a few Sams in various ads throughout the publication, so look for more than one. Once you think you have found all the Sams you can, write down how many you spotted, in what ads, the publication date, your name, address and telephone number, and mail them, email them or fax them to the Highlands Communicator. The first correct answer pulled from entries received wins \$50! It's that easy and it's fun too!

There were 8 sams in the last issue. They were in the following ads: Decarlo Machine Shop, County Auto, Paulmacks, The Peppermill, Foster's Door Repair, Emerson Lumber, Highlands Plumbing, Hill Chiropractic.

The Winner of last issue's spot Sam contest is: Sam Thompson of Kinmount

Minden Has a New Barber

Woman Barber Prefers Cutting Men's Hair

Edi Anderson is the new barber in town, and she only cuts men's hair. Edi is a tall, blond woman, who until recently called Oshawa home. She moved up to the Minden area in June of this year to be closer to family, and her husband will be moving up as soon as he winds up a contract.

"I've been a barber for 25 years, and I specialize in cutting men's hair," Edi says, "though I do have certificates in barbering and hairdressing. Most people who go to hairdressing school nowadays want to do all the fancy stuff, but I just basically like to cut. Period."

"I also find that men, once they like how you cut their hair, tend to be more loyal customers, whereas very often women will change stylists just for the sake of change. Growing up with 4 sisters might have something to do with the fact that I'd rather work with men, plus when I started cutting men's hair I found that I was really good at it, and if you're good at something you tend to stick with it. I'm really good at flat tops, crew cuts and brush cuts."

"When I moved up here I didn't realize that there was no barber in town, so things seem to be working out pretty well in that regard," Edi continues. There hasn't been a barber in Minden for the last couple of years, ever since Jerry the Barber called it a day, but now Edi finds herself working in the same space that Jerry did for so many years. It's a space which has been incorporated into the Head Inn Hairstyling salon, which is located on the corner of Bobcaygeon Rd and Newcastle Street, in downtown Minden. The Head Inn is owned and operated by Janet Hirstwood. She and Tony Martella are the cutters and stylists, with a mainly female clientele.

"Right now I'm in Jerry's old space, and from what I can gather he was such a great guy, and I hope that I can fill his shoes," Edi says. "I've always worked, and it's taking me a bit of time to adjust. I had a great clientele in Oshawa, and some people are going to be coming

up for haircuts now that I'm back to work. The biggest adjustments for me up here are the lack of some conveniences, things we always took for granted. Like garbage pick-up. Now I have to go to the dump," she laughs. "I'll miss being able to pick up the phone and order in, and of course now I'll have to travel to larger centres to go to the mall."

"The good things about living up here are the beauty of the environment and the friendliness and warmth of the people. I'm not worried about getting new customers. When people are happy with your work, they spread the word."

"I've had really good feed-



Edi and Head Inn owner Janet Hirstwood

back from her clients," says salon owner Janet Hirstwood. Edi smiles at the compliment. "I do some of the traditional barber cuts for some of my older clientele, but I also do the modern cuts for the younger people. If they see something modern that they like in a magazine, they can bring it in and I can do it for them," she states.

Presently Edi is working Thursdays and Fridays from 9 until 5 and Saturdays from 9 until 1 pm. But she's sure to increase her hours as she and her work gets known. Head Inn hours are 9-5 Tuesday through Friday, (Janet works late Thursday nights by appointment only), and Saturday from 9 until 1 pm.

To see Edi for a hair cut, you don't need an appointment, but to guarantee a specific time during her working days call her at (705) 286-2585.



Barber Edi Anderson gives a buzz cut to Steve Blair

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Places for People Needs Your Help

Dine Out for an Evening of Blues Cabaret in Support of Affordable Housing

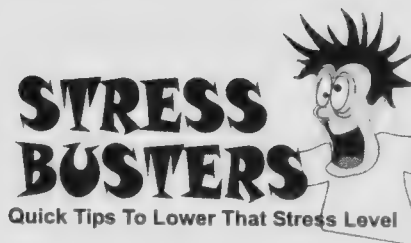
You can help those in need of affordable housing in Haliburton County by getting your tickets to the second People for Places fundraiser on Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Dominion Hotel in Minden.

For only \$45, you'll get the chance to dine on a hearty buffet dinner while taking in some superb jazz and blues music from groups Ragged Company and Jazz Kitchen.

Places for People is a local community-based, non-profit organization that is working to create and provide safe rental housing for those at risk of homelessness in Haliburton County by offering supports that encourage independence while strengthening the community.

The goal with this and other fundraisers is to purchase a run-down home, renovate it and rent out two to three rental apartments to low income, local residents.

There are a limited amount of tickets for the event, so make sure to get yours soon! Tickets can be purchased at the Dominion Hotel in Minden. For more information contact Faye Martin, President of Places for People, at 705 286-3668.



No Thank You!

"Every day you get many chances to become angry. For instance, a driver cuts in front of your car on the way to work. Someone else criticizes you. Another person doesn't return your call. All these are anger invitations. You could accept every one, in which case you'll be angry all the time. Instead, you have to be careful. The key is to ignore the less important invitations. You have to separate what is merely annoying from what is really serious." Ron Potter-Efron, M.S.W., and Pat Potter-Efron, M.S., Letting go of Anger
Make it a point to turn down some "invitations" today.

Taking It Indoors

Whatever the Weather, Indoor Car Seat Clinic Can Help Ensure Safety of Children

While the weather outside may be frightful, an upcoming local Car Seat Safety Clinic will be just delightful.

That's because the free event will be held indoors, making it easier for parents and caregivers to ensure their child car seats are properly installed and correctly used.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit is organizing a Car Seat Safety Clinic on Saturday, January 24, from 9 am to 1 pm, at Curry Motors Ltd (County Road 21) in Haliburton Village. No appointments are necessary.

Clinic organizers credit the generosity of Curry Motors for accommodating the event indoors in its service bay area.

"Having the clinic inside makes it easier for the people who want to have their car seats checked and the individuals who are doing the inspection," says Angela Van Berlo, a Health Promoter with the HKPR District Health Unit.

At the Car Seat Safety Clinic, trained technicians will check to see if each car seat is properly installed. Details on the different stages of child restraints and general car seat safety tips will also be provided. Anyone attending the clinic is asked to bring their car seat instructions and their vehicle manual.

"Start the New Year off right by ensuring your child rides safely in a properly-installed car seat or booster seat," says Karen Pettinella, a Public Health Nurse with the HKPR District Health Unit. "A few minutes of your time to get your child's car seat inspected can make a life-and-death difference to the safety of your youngster."

For more details on the upcoming clinic or car seat safety, call the Health Unit at (705) 457-1391.

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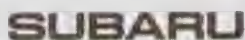
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Profile: Casey Cox - Farmer

by George Farrell

"The system hasn't changed for 30 years," local farmer Casey Cox states ominously. "It's the Americans who set the stage for the market in regards to cattle. They run the show. It's simple supply and demand."

It's a wonder why anyone would want to farm in Haliburton County nowadays. "The wife says it's like a sickness," Casey says with a chuckle. "You do it as long as you can, regardless of whether you make money or not."

Some people are under the impression that farmers get subsidized to produce. Such is not the case according to Casey. "There's no government subsidy. You can get some funding for things like plans for environmental farming, and there are some grants that help you erect some buildings. We received some funding a couple of years ago to build a barn and to do some barn yard rerouting of water, in order to make it more environmentally friendly. It's a good system when the economy is good. That's when farmers can afford the 50 percent they have to raise themselves. But the time farmers need help, the most is when the economy is bad, and that's when most of them can't afford it. You need some other income of some sort. Dad drives a school bus and I've worked for the county putting in culverts. No, things don't really change too much, and it'll be the large-scale farmers who will survive."

The J and C Cox Farm is owned by Casey's dad Joe. Joe and Casey are business partners. Casey's life partner is veterinarian Laurie Brown, and she helps out on the farm in some of her off-hours when she's not running the Haliburton Veterinary Services. Also lending a hand are son Chad, and, mainly in the summer, daughters Emma and Sarah. Casey's mom is Freda, and if you get the impression that it's a family operation you're right. In fact farming seems to be a 'handed-down' profession, most often from father to son. Such is the case with the 80 acre Cox farm on Horseshoe Lake Road, just outside Minden, where Casey is the only son. He has three sisters, Tina, Tammy and Joanne.

"My great, great, grandfather came over from England with his two brothers in 1866," Casey reveals. "He lived in Lindsay for a while before he came up here around the turn of the last century, and the two other brothers moved west with their families, so I guess it's been 5 generations of us who've run the farm."

The main income of the Cox farm comes from beef cattle. There are 115 cows on



Casey Cox and lamb; Casey and some of the cows



the farm as well as 80 ewes, some rams and bulls, some retired Belgians, and riding horses. "We raise the calves to 8-10 months and then we sell them at sales in Cookstown and Woodville. We sell them as feed cattle to be fattened up. When they leave us they're about 700 lbs. Then they're fattened up to about 1400 lbs before they're butchered. Calves are usually born in January and February, or July and August. This year we had 110 calves born. Each year there's anywhere from 100 to 120 lambs born, mainly in the spring. They go when they're about 4 months old."

To feed the animals the Cox's need a lot of land for grazing, and to harvest hay and corn. They need a lot more land than they own, so they rent out 14 different properties all over the county.

Casey Cox recently returned from a trip to England during which he was able to see some of the farming techniques on an English farm. "Chris Coysh of Coysh Construction was going to England to visit his parents," says Casey, "and on the spur of the moment I decided to go with him. Friends of his had a farm not too far outside of London, so I spent some time there. It's pretty much the same principle. It's wetter there, so there's a bit of difference in haying. They get two crops a year, while in our part of the world we only get one. They don't have a lot of dry hay. They have a smaller weather window for drying, so they wrap just about all of it in plastic. Another difference is that they use their tractors a lot more on the roads. Where we'll use a pick-up to go down the road to get feed, they tend to use a tractor. They also have a lot of large-roof systems-large buildings that may only have two sides. The cattle can go in there to get out of the rain and mud. They don't get much snow and the fields don't freeze like ours do. We can let our cattle into the fields in the winter, but if they did that in England the fields would turn to mud, and not be much

Casey Cox Cont'd... pg.20



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Paying Too Much Income Tax?

with Susan Lee

The government introduced a great tax savings strategy for Canadian couples in 2006 which came into effect in 2007, called "Pension Income Splitting". Please do not stop reading until I explain what the government means by a pension income. It is not what many assume from the name, a pension from my employer. The government also considers income from a RIF to be pension income if you are over 65 or you are under 65 and receiving the RIF income as a result of your spouse's death. RRSP can be converted to RIF income anytime but must be converted by the end of the year that the RRSP holder turns 71. Many Canadian couples who have RRSP/RIF are not fully taking advantage of this great tax savings opportunity. RIF income also qualifies for the 2000.00 pension tax credit for each person who is 65 or older and does not receive a work pension (CPP is not considered a work pension). This credit basically allows you to get 2000.00 out of your RRSP/RIF tax free. Please note: when dealing with the government nothing is easy. A 2000.00 wd from your RRSP does not qualify, you must convert the RRSP to a RIF and get the 2000.00 as a RIF wd to qualify for the pension tax credit. This is just a bit of paperwork and time for you to set up.

Pension income splitting allows a person with a higher income to move (split) on a year by year basis up to 50% of their pension income (not including CPP/OAS/GIS) to a lower income spouse, reducing income tax owed by that couple, in the year the split is elected. The transferring spouse, when the pension income comes from RIFs must be 65 or older but the recipient spouse can be any age. As mentioned above, to qualify for the 2000.00 pension tax credit the recipient spouse must be 65 or older.

Pension splitting also has the ability to affect credits and benefits solely based on one spouse or partner's income such as OAS. Consequently, transferring pension income from a higher-income earner who is subject to the OAS claw-back to a spouse who is below the OAS threshold can provide an ideal way to preserve otherwise clawed back benefits.

Studies show that very few Canadians have a retirement plan in place and only a small portion of Canadians in retirement have a financial plan in place around managing the withdrawal from their RRSP/RIF for income, tax efficiency and estate planning.

Do you want to pay more income tax than you need to? I would think the answer is no. I encourage anyone 60 years of age and older, not just couples, to review your RRSP/RIF with a professional such as an Accountant or Certified Financial Planner to make sure your taking advantage of all income tax reducing strategies available. Because, if you don't, no one else will.

Please call my office and make an appointment to review your retirement assets over a cup of coffee.

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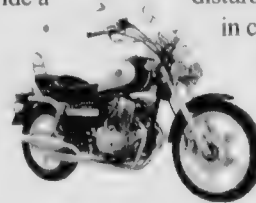
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It's the Law

It's the Law

In Idaho Falls, Idaho, it is against the law for anyone over eighty-eight to ride a motorcycle!

In Illinois, it's against the law for barbers to use their fingers to apply shaving cream to a customer's face.



A California state law passed in 1872 makes it illegal to disturb any birds nesting in cemeteries, except for swallows!

A law in Birmingham, Alabama, made it illegal for anyone to drive a car while blindfolded!

Casey Cox Cont'd....

... from pg. 19

use for anything, so they house a lot of them in the big buildings. But other than that it's really similar how things are. It's the same culture, and half of us came from there anyway."

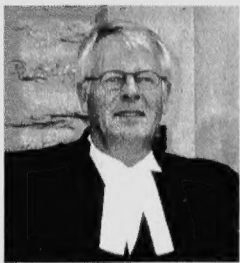
"There are some differences in keeping track of cattle though," Casey continues. Over there cattle have to be certified at birth, and the certificates have to be updated whenever they're moved or sold. In England because so many farm animals come from other countries they have to be very careful of BSE (mad cow disease), and they've also had a history of foot and mouth disease. The certificates are a perfect way to track animals, but it's a lot of work. One farmer I visited has his wife helping and she has a full time job just looking after the certificates for their cattle. Over here we have ear tags for identification, (and age verification, which is not mandatory yet)."

A farmers' life is a hard one, but perhaps not quite as hard as it used to be. Casey gets up at 6:30 or 7: a.m. "That's early enough for me," he states emphatically. He finishes work at about seven or eight each evening. Starting in January, and continuing through calving season "we have to check the cows for calving every two to three hours, especially at night. We work every day of the year. She's a full-time go. I can't really say why I do it, but it's all I've ever done."

When asked for an anecdote, Casey thinks a moment before responding. "Most of the stories on the farm tend to be sad ones. Animals get sick and sometimes die." He then tells the story of one very interesting cow.

"I trucked a Dexter cow for a neighbour. Dexters are small English cows that don't grow much more than 600 lbs. I delivered her up on Ravine Road a couple miles south of Minden. Well somehow she escaped from her new location and disappeared, only to show up walking down Hospitality Rd, off South Lake Rd. Then she went up to the scenic lookout for a while. Then people said they saw her going down South Lake Rd towards Highway 35. She walked up Highway 35, past the Subaru dealership. She went on up past the dump road, and then reappeared on Horseshoe lake Road. She made her way up the road, and Laurie and Mom steered her towards our farm. I opened up the gate and she walked right in. I tried to take her back to the guy, but he decided he didn't want her. We kept her for a couple of months until we finally found a home for her with another guy who has Dexters. It was funny though, because during her escape we'd get reports saying that there was a bull on the road and stuff like that, when really she was no bigger than a big dog"

Casey Cox finds time to volunteer as a board member for the Haliburton County Farmers Association, where he's a Past President. He also sits on the board of directors of the Haliburton County Fair Board.



Lange on the Law

Donald Lange

by **Donald J. Lange**
Barrister & Solicitor

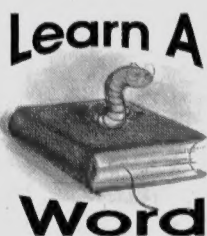
The "Thin Skull" Rule

The "thin skull" rule is an old English rule of law which applies in Canada to acts of negligence (a tort) by one person (the tortfeasor) against another person causing personal injury. An example is a slip and fall in a shopping mall parking lot which is not properly kept clean of snow and ice in the winter. The principle is that the tortfeasor is liable for the plaintiff's injuries even if the injuries are unexpectedly severe owing to a pre-existing condition, such as a thin skull, when severe head injuries result from the slip and fall. The tortfeasor must take his or her victim as the tortfeasor finds the victim and is, therefore, liable even though the plaintiff's injuries are more dramatic than they would be for a normal person.

A decision of the Supreme Court of Canada released in May 2008 revisited the "thin skull" rule. Culligan is a manufacturer and supplier of drinking water in rural areas such as Haliburton. The plaintiff replaced an empty bottle of drinking water with a full bottle and saw a dead fly and part of another dead fly in the unopened replacement bottle. Obsessed with the event and its "revolting implications" for the health of his family, he developed a major depressive disorder, phobia, and anxiety. He sued Culligan for psychiatric injury.

The Supreme Court held that, as the manufacturer of the drinking water, Culligan owed the plaintiff, as consumer, a duty of care in supplying bottled water to him, and it breached the standard of care by providing the plaintiff with contaminated water. The court also held that the plaintiff met the requirement of personal injury because he suffered a debilitating psychological injury which had a significant impact on his life. However, the court held that, although the breach caused the injury in fact, it did not do so as a matter of law. The court stated that "the law expects reasonable fortitude and robustness of its citizens and will not impose liability for the exceptional frailty of certain individuals." The plaintiff failed to meet the test of foreseeability, namely that it was foreseeable that a normal person would suffer serious injury from seeing the flies in the bottle of water he was about to install but did not drink. Unusual or extreme reactions to events caused by negligence are imaginable but are not reasonably foreseeable. In legal circles, a debate is ensuing whether the venerable "thin skull" rule has been "watered down." What do you think?

In the next column, I will be talking about discharging old mortgages.



Henotheism

\he-ne-the-i-zem\ n: the worship of one god without denying the existence of other gods.

During certain periods of Egyptian history, the pharaohs and their subject practiced henotheism.

Donald J. Lange, LL.B., Ph.D. (Cantab.)

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

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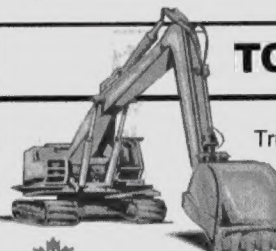
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Strange BUT TRUE

Herpetologists can tell you that of all the victims of rattlesnake bites, only about half of them actually hear the telltale rattle before being bitten.

It was famed Elizabethan playwright William Shakespeare who made the following sage observation: "Beauty is all very well at first sight; but whoever looks at it when it has been in the house three days?"

The "Guinness Book of World Records" used to have a category for how many live goldfish a person could eat at once, but it was eliminated. Interestingly, the reason for the elimination had nothing to do with cruelty to animals, but rather had to do with the difficulty of preventing cheating. It seems that some would-be competitors were breeding smaller and smaller fish for consumption.

The word "alimony" is derived from the Latin word "alimonia," which means "nourishment."

Those who study such things say that the month in which you are most likely to be shot, strangled or poisoned is December. They don't seem to venture an opinion regarding why, however.

On average, British women are shorter than women in the United States.

Who among us isn't familiar with the line, "Quoth the Raven, nevermore"? As virtually anyone who made it through middle-school English class can tell you, it's from Edgar Allan Poe's classic poem "The Raven." Considering the ubiquitous nature of the work, though, you might be surprised to learn that Poe earned a grand total of \$9 from the first publication of the poem.

The brain of an ostrich is actually smaller than one of its eyes.

Thought for the Day: "Bureaucrats write memoranda both because they appear to be busy when they are writing and because the memos, once written, immediately become proof that they were busy."
-- Charles Peters

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hat is all black. 2. Mustache is missing. 3. Fishing hole is moved. 4. Tackle is gone from box. 5. Boots are higher. 6. Tree is missing.

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